

MINUTES of the **ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING** held in the Conference Room, Epping Hall on **Tuesday 14th April 2026 at 8pm.**

PRESENT:

Cllr Janet Whitehouse	(Town Mayor & Chair)	
Cllr R Sharif	(Deputy Town Mayor)	
Cllr N Avey	Cllr C Burgess	Cllr L Burrows
Cllr J Duffell	Cllr C McCredie	Cllr H Pegrum
Cllr G Scruton	Cllr Jon Whitehouse	Cllr M Wright

OFFICER: Beverley Rumsey (Town Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE: 1 member of the press was present.

477 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr H Whitbread. Apologies for lateness were received from Cllr L Burrows and Cllr Jon Whitehouse.

478 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

479 DISPENSATIONS

There were no dispensations.

480 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions or comments.

481 CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 10th March 2026 be signed by the Mayor as a true record and adopted by the Council, subject to the following amendment:

Minute 444 (ii) Delete as repeat of minute above (typographical error)

Cllr Jon Whitehouse entered during this item.

482 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

It was **RESOLVED** that the signed Minutes of the following Committee meetings be signed by the Mayor as a true record and adopted by the Council.

Planning & General Purposes Committee	10 th March 2026	(Attachment B)
Planning & General Purposes Committee	24 th March 2026	(Attachment C)

483 COMMUNICATIONS TO NOTE/REQUIRING DECISION**(i) Safer Speeds Consultation**

Council discussed the Safer Speeds consultation.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

(i) The Town Clerk would return the following comments:

- Should be more about prioritising locations first. Which roads?
- Environmental issues should be taken into account. Landscape. Forest. Air pollution. Animals.
- Use of roads varies over time.
- Rhythm of the day differs eg school times
- Schools should be advised of the consultation eg Ivy Chimneys, key traffic hotspot
- Lack of safe crossing places
- Working with the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) – who look after District parking?
- Parking and traffic flow
- Wider traffic management and road safety

(ii) Epping Neighbourhood Plan

Council **NOTED** that Epping's Neighbourhood Plan was awaiting approval from EFDC's Cabinet and if approved, the forthcoming referendum on 18th June 2026. Council further **NOTED** that further information would follow in due course.

(iii) Lions on the Loose trail

Council considered the information regarding St Clare's Lions on the Loose trail, as per **Attachment D**.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) Epping Town Council **CONFIRMED** they are happy to be part of St Clare Lions on the Loose Trail 2026.

(iv) Essex Safeguarding Adults Board

Council **NOTED** the letter from the Chair of the Essex Safeguarding Adults Board, as per **Attachment D1**.

(v) New Epping Town Council email addresses

Council **NOTED** the Epping Town Councillor’s new email addresses.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) The Town Clerk would assist with any email accounts required.

484 TOWN MAYOR & DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR’S DUTIES

The duties undertaken by the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor since the Ordinary Council meeting on 10th March 2026 were **NOTED**, with the following additions:

Town Mayor: Bowls Club: positive for those living with dementia

485 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

Reports from members were received on meetings or visits since the Ordinary Council meeting on 10th March 2026:

Cllr C McCredie	Street food market	13 th March 2026
	Friends of Swaines Green committee meeting.....	18 th March 2026
	Coopersale litter pick28 th March 2026
	Dementia café library	2 nd April 2026
	Blue plaque unveiling	10 th April 2026
Cllr M Wright	Street food market10 th April 2026
	Blue plaque unveiling	10 th April 2026
Cllr J Duffell	Street food market10 th April 2026
	Blue plaque unveiling	10 th April 2026
Cllr J Whitehouse	Blue plaque unveiling	10 th April 2026
Cllr N Avey	Blue plaque unveiling	10 th April 2026
	Street food market10 th April 2026
Cllr G Scruton	League of Friends of St Margaret’s	21 st April 2026
	Street food market10 th April 2026

486 REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK AND COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS

Members advised the Town Clerk of resident feedback on the Street Food Market including entertainment, greater publicity and seating.

Cllr Avey advised of complaints regarding the new waste arrangements which he would contact the portfolio holder at EFDC about.

Thanks were given to Jimmy Waters regarding his patience and work on the London 15 milestone and an unveiling/celebration was requested.

Publicity was suggested for the new pétanque sign.

Members **NOTED** the report of the Town Clerk.

487 REPORTS FROM EPPING FOREST DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**Epping Forest District Council****Cllr Jon Whitehouse**

- Lots of live planning issues
- Review of grey belt. Site specifics. Will take time. Case by case early judgement.
Latton Priory not being approved may augment pressures on EFDC re non delivery
- Issues with new bin system noted. Small bins break easily. Weight of larger blue bins.

Cllr Janet Whitehouse

- Updating constitution

Cllr R Sharif

- Planning issues. North Weald development. No infrastructure guarantees.

488 FINANCIAL REPORT TO 31st MARCH 2026

Council considered the summary financial report for March 2026, presented by Council's Key Member for Finance, Cllr G Scruton.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- The statutory basis for this item be **NOTED** as the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and **APPROVED**;
- No further action was required at the current time.

489 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Council's Key Member for Finance, Cllr G Scruton presented the payment schedules for March 2026 totalling £60,708.51 (Barclays: £76.43, The Co-operative £59,979.38 & The Co-operative online £652.70). Please note a transfer of £50,000 from Barclays to The Co-operative and a transfer of £1000 from The Co-operative to the Co-operative online.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- The statutory basis for this item be **NOTED** as the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- The list of payments for March 2026 were **APPROVED** as presented in the schedule.

490 BANK BALANCES: AT 31st MARCH 2026

Council **NOTED** the bank balances at 31st March 2026, as per **Attachment I**.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- The statutory basis for this item be **NOTED** as the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

491 FINANCIAL SUMMARY POSITION, YEAR END CLOSE DOWN & BAD DEBTS**(i) Financial Summary Position and Year End Close Down**

Council **NOTED** the information regarding the year end close down by RBS Omega on 13th May 2026.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) The statutory basis for this item be **NOTED** as the Local Government and Accountability Act 2014; Accounts and Audits Regulations 2003; Local Government Act 1972, S151; Epping Town Council Financial Regulations 9.4

(ii) Bad debts**(a) 2025/26**

Council **NOTED** that bad debts for 2025/26 were being chased.

(b) 2023/24 and 2024/25

Council **NOTED** the write offs for the 2023-24 financial year were £243.25 and £221.15 for the 2024-25 financial year through the RBS Omega year-end close down.

492 TOWN PARTNERSHIP: MAYOR'S REPORT

Cllr L Burrows entered during this item.

Council **NOTED** the Mayor's Report on the Town Partnership, as per **Attachment K** and the request for members to share the meeting date and information.

493 CEMETERY REGULATIONS

Council considered the Cemetery regulation amendments and discussions surrounding residents and non resident rates, as per **Attachment L**.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) The statutory basis for this item be **NOTED** as the Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9-10; Local Government Act 1972, s214 (6);
- (ii) The amended Cemetery Regulations were **APPROVED**;
- (iii) The criteria for resident and non resident rates regarding living in and out of the area should be reworded as the intention was not clear in this wording;
- (iv) The criteria for the resident/non resident rate regarding moving in and out of the Parish should read:

"People who have lived in Epping for 5 yrs or more will still attract the residents rates for 5 yrs post moving away."

494 EPPING CHRISTMAS MARKET 2026

Council discussed the timings for Epping Christmas Market 2026.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) The statutory basis for this item be **NOTED** as the Local Government Act 1972, s145;
- (ii) Epping Christmas Market 2026 would run from 12 noon to 8pm on Friday 4th December 2026.

495 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was **RESOLVED** that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

496 CYBER ESSENTIALS

Council **CONSIDERED** the information regarding Cyber Essentials as per **Attachment M**.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) The statutory basis for this item be **NOTED** as the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- (ii) The Town Clerk would work on Cyber Essentials with Council's IT provider this year;
- (iii) The situation would be renewed next year to decide if it would be undertaken again, rather than undertaken annually automatically.

497 EPPING TOWN COUNCIL WEBSITE

Council **CONSIDERED** the information regarding a new website for Epping Town Council as per **Attachment N**.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) The statutory basis for this item be **NOTED** as the Local Government Act 1972, s111;
- (ii) The new website, as per **Attachment N**, was **APPROVED**.

498 RED TELEPHONE BOXES

Council **CONSIDERED** the red telephone boxes, as per **Attachment O**.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) The statutory basis for this item be **NOTED** as the Local Government Act 1972, s145, s111;

- (ii) Council would not purchase the red telephone boxes with the particulars detailed in **Attachment O**.

499 STONARDS HILL RECREATION GROUND PITCH DRAINAGE

Council discussed the pitch drainage situation at Stonards Hill recreation ground.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) The statutory basis for this item be **NOTED** as the Public Health Act 1875, s164; Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s19;
- (ii) The pitch drainage and maintenance work would be undertaken, as per Attachment P;
- (iii) The Town Clerk would await the outcome of the S106 money decision.

CLOSURE

The Town Mayor, Cllr Janet Whitehouse, closed the meeting at **9.56pm**.

Signature of Chairman

Date